



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2017

LCO No. 8232



Offered by:

SEN. GERRATANA, 6th Dist.

SEN. SOMERS, 18th Dist.

REP. STEINBERG, 136th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 903

File No. 474

Cal. No. 250

"AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 20-195aa of the general statutes is repealed and
4 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

5 As used in [sections 20-195aa] this section and sections 20-195bb to
6 20-195ee, inclusive:

7 (1) "Licensed professional counselor" or "professional counselor"
8 means a person who has been licensed as a professional counselor
9 pursuant to this chapter;

10 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

11 (3) "Department" means the Department of Public Health;

12 (4) "Professional counseling" means the application, by persons
13 trained in counseling, of established principles of psycho-social
14 development and behavioral science to the evaluation, assessment,
15 analysis, diagnosis and treatment of emotional, behavioral or
16 interpersonal dysfunction or difficulties that interfere with mental
17 health and human development. "Professional counseling" includes,
18 but is not limited to, individual, group, marriage and family
19 counseling, functional assessments for persons adjusting to a
20 disability, appraisal, crisis intervention and consultation with
21 individuals or groups; [.]

22 (5) "Under professional supervision" means the practice of
23 professional counseling under the supervision of a licensed
24 professional counselor, a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370,
25 who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and
26 Neurology, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to
27 chapter 378, who is certified as a psychiatric and mental health clinical
28 nurse specialist or nurse practitioner by the American Nurses
29 Credentialing Center, a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383,
30 a marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to chapter 383a or a
31 licensed clinical social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b;

32 (6) "Direct professional supervision" means face-to-face consultation
33 between one supervisor, who is a professional described in subdivision
34 (5) of this section, and one person receiving supervision that consists of
35 not less than a monthly review with a written evaluation and
36 assessment by the supervisor of such person's practice of professional
37 counseling; and

38 (7) " Related mental health field" means social work, marriage and
39 family therapy or psychology.

40 Sec. 2. Section 20-195cc of the general statutes is repealed and the
41 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

42 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health shall grant a license as a
43 professional counselor to any applicant who furnishes evidence

44 satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant has met the
45 requirements of section 20-195dd, as amended by this act. The
46 commissioner shall develop and provide application forms. The
47 application fee shall be three hundred fifteen dollars.

48 (b) Licenses issued under this section may be renewed annually
49 pursuant to section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be one
50 hundred ninety-five dollars. Each licensed professional counselor
51 applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the
52 commissioner of having participated in continuing education
53 programs. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
54 with chapter 54, to (1) define basic requirements for continuing
55 education programs [, which] that shall include (A) not less than one
56 contact hour of training or education each registration period on the
57 topic of cultural competency, [and,] (B) on and after January 1, 2016,
58 not less than two contact hours of training or education during the first
59 renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less
60 than once every six years thereafter on the topic of mental health
61 conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans,
62 including [(A)] (i) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family
63 member of a veteran, [(B)] (ii) screening for conditions such as post-
64 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and
65 [(C)] (iii) suicide prevention training, and (C) on and after January 1,
66 2018, not less than three contact hours of training or education each
67 registration period on the topic of professional ethics, (2) delineate
68 qualifying programs, (3) establish a system of control and reporting,
69 and (4) provide for a waiver of the continuing education requirement
70 for good cause.

71 Sec. 3. Section 20-195dd of the general statutes is repealed and the
72 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

73 (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this
74 section, an applicant for a license as a professional counselor shall,
75 prior to January 1, 2019, submit evidence satisfactory to the
76 [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner of having: [(1)] (A)

77 Completed sixty graduate semester hours in or related to the discipline
78 of counseling at a regionally accredited institution of higher education,
79 [which] that included coursework in each of the following areas: [(A)]
80 (i) Human growth and development, [(B)] (ii) social and cultural
81 foundations, [(C)] (iii) counseling theories and techniques or helping
82 relationships, [(D)] (iv) group dynamics, [(E)] (v) processing and
83 counseling, [(F)] (vi) career and lifestyle development, [(G)] (vii)
84 appraisals or tests and measurements for individuals and groups, [(H)]
85 (viii) research and evaluation, and [(I)] (ix) professional orientation to
86 counseling; [(2)] (B) earned, from a regionally accredited institution of
87 higher education a master's or doctoral degree in social work, marriage
88 and family therapy, counseling, psychology or a related mental health
89 field; [(3)] (C) acquired three thousand hours of postgraduate-degree-
90 supervised experience in the practice of professional counseling,
91 performed over a period of not less than one year, that included a
92 minimum of one hundred hours of direct supervision by [(A)] (i) a
93 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 who has obtained
94 certification in psychiatry from the American Board of Psychiatry and
95 Neurology, [(B)] (ii) a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383,
96 [(C)] (iii) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to
97 chapter 378 and certified as a clinical specialist in adult psychiatric and
98 mental health nursing with the American Nurses Credentialing Center,
99 [(D)] (iv) a marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to chapter
100 383a, [(E)] (v) a clinical social worker licensed pursuant to chapter
101 383b, [(F)] (vi) a professional counselor licensed, or prior to October 1,
102 1998, eligible for licensure, pursuant to section 20-195cc, or [(G)] (vii) a
103 physician certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry
104 and Neurology, psychologist, advanced practice registered nurse
105 certified as a clinical specialist in adult psychiatric and mental health
106 nursing with the American Nurses Credentialing Center, marital and
107 family therapist, clinical social worker or professional counselor
108 licensed or certified as such or as a person entitled to perform similar
109 services, under a different designation, in another state or jurisdiction
110 whose requirements for practicing in such capacity are substantially
111 similar to or higher than those of this state; and [(4)] (D) passed an

112 examination prescribed by the commissioner. Any such applicant who,
113 on or before July 1, 2017, is a matriculating student in good standing in
114 a graduate degree program at a regionally accredited institution of
115 higher education in one of the fields required under subparagraph (B)
116 of this subdivision on or before July 1, 2017, but who cannot
117 reasonably complete the requirements set forth in this subdivision
118 prior to January 1, 2019, as determined by the commissioner, may
119 apply for a license under this subdivision on and after January 1, 2019.

120 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this
121 section, an applicant for a license as a professional counselor shall, on
122 and after January 1, 2019, submit evidence satisfactory to the
123 commissioner of having: (A) (i) Earned a graduate degree in clinical
124 mental health counseling as part of a program of higher learning
125 accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related
126 Educational Programs, or a successor organization, or (ii) (I) completed
127 at least sixty graduate semester hours in counseling or a related mental
128 health field at a regionally accredited institution of higher education
129 that included coursework in each of the following areas: Human
130 growth and development; social and cultural foundations; counseling
131 theories; counseling techniques; group counseling; career counseling;
132 appraisals or tests and measurements to individuals and groups;
133 research and evaluation; professional orientation to mental health
134 counseling; addiction and substance abuse counseling; trauma and
135 crisis counseling; and diagnosis and treatment of mental and
136 emotional disorders, (II) earned from a regionally accredited
137 institution of higher education a graduate degree in counseling or a
138 related mental health field, (III) completed a one-hundred-hour
139 practicum in counseling taught by a faculty member licensed or
140 certified as a professional counselor or its equivalent in another state,
141 and (IV) completed a six-hundred-hour clinical mental health
142 counseling internship taught by a faculty member licensed or certified
143 as a professional counselor or its equivalent in another state; (B)
144 acquired three thousand hours of postgraduate experience under
145 professional supervision, including a minimum of one hundred hours

146 of direct professional supervision, in the practice of professional
147 counseling, performed over a period of not less than two years; and (C)
148 passed an examination prescribed by the commissioner.

149 (b) An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall present
150 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant is licensed
151 or certified as a professional counselor, or as a person entitled to
152 perform similar services under a different designation, in another state
153 or jurisdiction whose requirements for practicing in such capacity are
154 substantially similar to or higher than those of this state and that there
155 are no disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints pending.

156 (c) An applicant who is [currently] licensed or certified as a
157 professional counselor or its equivalent in another state, territory or
158 commonwealth of the United States may substitute three years of
159 licensed or certified work experience in the practice of professional
160 counseling in lieu of the requirements of [subdivision (3)]
161 subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, or
162 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, as
163 applicable, provided the commissioner finds that such experience is
164 equal to or greater than the requirements of this state."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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| Section 1 | <i>October 1, 2017</i> | 20-195aa |
| Sec. 2 | <i>October 1, 2017</i> | 20-195cc |
| Sec. 3 | <i>October 1, 2017</i> | 20-195dd |